

From: Bennett C. Baker
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 9:15am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern;

I am writing this letter to express my opinion that the currently proposed Microsoft settlement is completely inadequate in terms of the remedies proposed for Microsoft's blatant, frequent, arrogant, and ongoing abuse of its monopoly position. I am especially distressed to find that the proposed settlement does absolutely nothing to prevent Microsoft from continuing to deliberately and cynically sabotage its implementation of public-domain communications protocols in order to break compatibility with non-Microsoft products and protocols. This behavior, if left unchecked, will create immeasurably high barriers to entry for any entity wishing to work with or create products for the Internet or the World Wide Web. Current basic Internet protocols are in the public domain, and any entity can create equipment or services for use with the internet. If Microsoft succeeds in their attempted Balkanization of formerly public protocols, all would-be players on the Internet field would have to pay a tithe to Microsoft or face an enormously high barrier to entry, thereby effectively destroying the innovation which so often comes from smaller entities.

In closing, I strongly urge that the proposed settlement be amended to provide some real protection to all of us from Microsoft's continued predation. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Bennett C. Baker

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